8/19/70

Dear Ed,

I've read the chpater from Dark Star (would you like me to return it so you can have the complete book again?). It is, in many ways, very interesting. It is, for example, a pptern to be followed later, in sometimes fine detail.

The political commentary is accurate. I think it is probably accurate in presuming the reason for whoever desired change in Cuba so desiribg. I have forgotten so much of those countries and that period. I was then a sort of Latin America expert. To me, the glaring and missed clus is the absence of one obvious charge: violation of the neutrality laws. From that I do draw a few tentative conclusions.

Not that the government was behind the plot, for had they been, there'd not have been the raid. It think it more likely they were secretly sympathetic to those who were.

The Falange in Latin America was in some cases the overseas branch of the Dpanish fascist partyq. However, the term was also applied to right-wingers not so attached. It is an oversimplification fo say this was a Spanish plot, and I doubt Franco ever threw that kind of U.S. money around.

In those days we had no agency like the current CIA. I think it then had just bee formed by Truman. The OSS had been dibanded and they didn't do this kind of thing, anyway.

The fake lumbering operation was exactly duplicated by Ricardo Davis, in 1963, even to the establishment of a company.

Guatemala, I think by then, but possibly not until a little later, had a popular-front government, with some landredistribution, and you know what our government did there. Is itnpossible this was an earlier gesture, unofficial?

So much is so like what was later the reality, the parallels are striking. The remaining question is what, if anything, does it mean?

Thanks,